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Study says arms have burgeoned

Equal 3.5 tons of TNT per person, group finds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - International nuclear stockpiles have mushroomed and represent the equivalent of 3.5 tons of TNT for every person on earth, more than a million times the explosive power of the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, according to a study by a coalition of arms control groups.

The study, "World Military and Social Expenditures, 1982," charges that nuclear and conventional arms races have wasted resources without enhancing international security.

"Under its heavy military burden, the global economy has suffered," writes the author of the study, Ruth Leger Sivard. "The diversion of resources from civilian needs is a silent killer, curbing productivity and development, and adding more millions to the hundreds of millions of people who lack the most basic necessities of life."

Sivard is director of World Priorities, a non-profit research organization. She was formerly chief of the economics division of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The report, using information supplied by the Pentagon, the CIA, United Nations organizations and several international publications, claims that:

- World military costs have risen to \$600 billion a year - well over \$1 million a minute.
- The world's stockpile of nuclear weapons is the equivalent of 16 billion tons of TNT. During World War II, three million tons of munitions were expended and 40 million to 50 million people died.
- Spending per soldier averages \$19,300 worldwide but only \$380 is spent per school-age child for education.
- For every 100,000 people, there are 556 soldiers and 85 physicians. An estimated 100 million people worldwide are engaged directly or indirectly in military activities.
- In 32 countries, governments spend more for military purposes than for education and health care combined.
- NATO and Warsaw Pact forces have a total of 100,000 tanks, enough to form a column stretching the 1100 miles between Paris and Budapest.